

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

CALL TO ORDER

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chairperson Lane called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. as a Committee of the Whole.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, AND APRIL 20, 2005 MINUTES

This item was held pending a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Block - spoke about HR-1268 which if passed Ms. Block alleges would require the issuance of national identification numbers for U.S. citizens. Ms. Block also spoke about the Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements developed by Codex Alimentarius which would prevent the sales of all vitamins and natural supplements without a doctor's prescription.

Chair Lane spoke about the feasibility of implementing certain changes by Housing and Urban Development which will impact public housing services for people with disabilities. In addition, the Department of Rehabilitation has begun reorganization at the state level which will affect the operation of the department and its relationship to the Department of Labor and independent living centers. Chair Lane urged everyone to continue to advocate and contact their legislative representatives on issues concerning services for persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Rubenstein announced that Access Services Incorporated will be voting at its May 23 meeting whether to begin Night Owl services on July 1st. If the organization votes to begin the service then there will be no paratransit services from midnight until 4:00 a.m., except in the West Central District which will continue to operate 24 hours a day. Paratransit reservations will also be taken after 11:00 p.m. in areas that fall within $\frac{3}{4}$ miles in either direction from a fixed bus route which continues to operate after 1:00 a.m.

Commissioner Rubenstein also reported about a rally in support of protecting In Home Support Services that will be held on May 24th, from 3-6 p.m. at 300 S. Spring Street. At issue are the implementations of IHSS cuts which will affect the ability of people with disability to live at home independently as opposed to being placed in nursing homes.

Commissioner Rubenstein also offered some personal and biographical information about himself.

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont.)

Mary Griffieth – spoke about ridership problems she is experiencing with Access Services and also about difficulties she is having getting responses from agencies she has contacted to express her concerns.

(Vice Chair Neal joined the meeting constituting a quorum)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 16 AND APRIL 20, 2005 MEETINGS

On motion of Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Neal, and unanimously carried, the Minutes for the Meetings of March 16, and April 20, 2005 were approved with the following correction:

Alan Cantrell is the Executive Director for Access Services Incorporated.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005-06

Jim Corbett, staff, reported that according to the Commission's By-Laws, elections for officers of the Commission are mandated

to be held in June of each year. Last week, Declaration of Candidacy forms were sent out to Commissioners with a due date of May 31st for submission. The Nomination Committee members were assigned by the Chair to review the forms and present a slate of officers for the upcoming year. Commissioner Russell will serve as the committee Chair.

APPROVAL OF SPONSORSHIP FOR FAMILIA UNIDA'S ANNUAL WHEELCHAIR WASH ON JULY 24, 2005

Commissioner Resendez spoke about the upcoming Wheelchair Wash which has been hosted annually by her organization Familia Unida. The event this year will be held to promote awareness and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the passage of the ADA. The Wheelchair Wash provides a day of outreach to local residents and the community as well as the opportunity to have a good time, beauty makeovers, food, and musical entertainment. The event already has support from sponsors such as White Memorial Medical Center and the Southern California Gas Company.

Commissioner Resendez is suggesting that the Commission could participate as co-sponsors for the event by providing partial funding for the food. In turn, the Commission would share in the event's promotion, will be provided with a booth to disseminate information, and a Commissioner will also be asked to speak at the event on the Commission's activities and interests.

Following discussion, it was agreed to revisit this issue next year which will allow more time to formulate a plan for the Commission's involvement. Commissioner Krzyzanowski will attend this year on behalf of the Commission.

DISCUSSION OF SPONSORSHIP/ATTENDANCE AT THE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR RECEPTION ON JUNE 6, 2005.

Jim Corbett gave an overview on the event which is held annually to acknowledge the work and accomplishments of outstanding women throughout Los Angeles County. Mr. Corbett explained that each year the Commission for Women and the Commission on Disabilities have supported each other's

luncheon event and have purchased a sponsorship and sent commissioners to the event.

On motion of Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Neal and unanimously carried, the Commission agreed to send two Commissioners and be a Bronze Sponsor for this year's 2005 Women of the Year Reception.

UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON LILA PROGRAM

John Whitbread gave a presentation, overview, and demonstration of the services on the LILA (Living Independently in Los Angeles) website.

LILA has been operating for over four years in partnership with the Westside Center for Independent Living and the UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge. The website is user interactive and has a myriad of capabilities and links to thousands of resources such as location maps, housing, job opportunities, services, and activities available in the disability community. The site also has an on-line calendar where anyone can add their special events and activities. Advocacy alerts can be added to the site and constituents can send their concerns directly by e-mail to their legislators. The site receives at least 30,000 hits a month. Mr. Whitbread is willing to assist anyone with training on the website.

Mr. Whitbread added that the website is the first of its kind and the agency has received national recognition and has been asked to give LILA presentations to the United Nations and other countries that have expressed an interest in implementing projects that map out resources for people with disabilities throughout the world. In addition, LILA has been a recipient of several awards which include runner up for the Stockholm Challenge, Information Technology and Community Award and the J. F. K. School of Government at Harvard for Innovations in Government Award.

ASI STATUS REPORT

Teddy Joy Remhild also reported on recent discussions which may change Night Owl services for MTA patrons. At its upcoming MTA Board meeting, ASI will be deciding whether to discontinue its premium services which are not required under the regulations of the ADA.

In addition, ASI will be reviewing its County contracts from various providers such as Global Paratransit, MTA in the Valley, and will also be considering RFP's from San Gabriel and East County.

Ms. Remhild also spoke about proposed changes and budget reductions to IHSS that will affect consumer service delivery, worker's wages and health care benefits.

Currently, a working group has been formed to reassess the Quality Assurance Initiative of the IHSS program, and the guidelines for the hourly rates for tasks performed by workers will be under review. Previously, personal care delivery did not have hourly guidelines. At this time, 12 personal tasks will be evaluated and guidelines implemented on the time that should be allotted to complete each personal care task. In addition, the appeals process is being streamlined which may result in making it more difficult to file an appeal and also get an increase in the hours that someone needs for IHSS care.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Lane gave an update on the status of the series of meetings which have been held with representatives in the movie and film industry to address the use of ADA compliant cable covers by film crews on location.

Chair Lane reported that much progress has been made regarding this issue with the entertainment industry since the discussion sessions began a few months ago. Since that time interest and concern regarding this issue has increased and many large companies such as Warner Brothers, Sony and Disney as well as at least 25 other companies, have actively participated in the sessions held to encourage the use of ADA Compliant cable covers by filming companies.

At this time the wording in County contracts that are issued to filming companies and crews are under review to ensure that specific wording is added to the permits stating that the use of ADA Compliant equipment is required while filming. Chair Lane reported that she and Kurt Hagen from the ADA compliance office met with film industry representatives and Kurt Hagen gave an outstanding presentation. In addition research is being performed to develop a list of vendors that can rent or sell the ADA Compliant equipment to film companies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACE ON A FUTURE AGENDA

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair Neal announced that she had information on SB-233 the bill about alternative medicine to share with those interested in receiving a copy of the material.

Commission Rubenstein announced that radio station AM 870 KRLA has a program called Breakthrough that airs on Saturday, from 9 – 10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned in 3:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Carol Lane, Chair
Janet Neal, Vice Chair
Kecia Weller, Treasurer
Steve Jensen
Richard Krzyzanowski
Irma Resendez
Harley Rubenstein

Absent

Ruth Ann Acosta
Viola Vivian Corbett
Ernest T. Hamilton Jr.
Michael G. Gureckas
John B. Troost
Wendy Welt

Carlton Russell
Bernard Siegel
Sheila D. Wright

Board of Supervisors

Jim Corbett
Dedie Ward

Department Liaisons

Juan Benitez, Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Matthew Leos, Registrar Recorder/County Clerk
Carlton Lindo, Office of Consumer Affairs

Guests

Donald Brandon
Royce Crowder
Rone Ellis
Karla Geller
Ralph Gottlieb
Mary Griffith
John Mavin
Ray McKeever
Johnnie Nicole Resendez
Jess Segovia
John Whitbread